# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:157
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
Fanthome Shri Francis;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether air and water pollution is increasing in various parts of the country including that of the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the increasing pollution?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 157 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.10.2008 RAISED BY SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME AND SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN REGARDING AIR AND WATER POLLUTION`

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring quality of ambient air and water across the country. The monitored data for ambient air for the last 03 years reveals that the level of Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) is within the prescribed air quality norms in residential area in all the cities and that of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) is within norms in most of the cities. However, the level of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) exceeds the prescribed norms in many cities including Delhi.The level of RSPM is showing a mixed trend in Delhi during last three years. The water quality data for the last 03 years indicates that many rivers and water bodies in the country including river Yamuna in Delhi are facing organic pollution and bacterial contamination. A mixed trend in terms of BOD and total coliform has been observed in Yamuna in Delhi during last three years.

(b) The RSPM level exceeded the prescribed norms in residential areas of 82 out of 102 cities monitored during 2007 and the annual average of NO level in residential areas exceeded the prescribed norms only at 07 locations in 04 cities. No exceedance is reported for SO2 in the year 2007 across the country. The monitored ambient air quality data for last 03 years for Delhi indicates that the level of SO2 is showing a decreasing trend and the level of NO2 a fluctuating trend. However, annual average concentration levels of SO2 and NO2 for Delhi are within norms. The level of RSPM in residential and industrial areas is in exceedance of the norms.

The BOD is reported to be in exceedance of the norms at 335 out of 910 locations monitored during 2007, whereas bacterial contamination of water is exceeding the norms at 179 locations across the country. The water quality of river Yamuna upstream of Wazirabad barrage in Delhi generally remains within acceptable norms for dissolved oxygen and BOD but, has been found in exceedance for bacterial contamination.Water quality downstream of the barrage shows exceedance of BOD and total coliform norms.

The causes of air pollution are industrialization,vehicular movement,burning of fuel in kitchen, operation of DG sets etc. The major causes of water pollution are discharge of untreated sewage from cities and towns because of increase in population and rapid urbanization, disposal of industrial effluents, agriculture run-off and non-availability of fresh water in streams and rivers`to maintain minimum flow.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government to control pollution including notification of ambient and source specific emission and effluent standards. Implementation of action plan for air quality management in 16 cities and source apportionment studies (SAS) in 6 cities are being carried out.

Implementation of emission norms for new and in-use vehicles and fuels quality in accordance with the Road Map of the Auto Fuel policy, introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport and strengthening of mass transportation is underway. Use of beneficiated/blended coal in thermal power plants has been introduced.

Monitoring of inter-state river water quality,implementation of River Action Plans and establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) is being done. A Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) is being implemented in identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries. Action Plans are being executed in identified 24 critically polluted areas. Environmental Clearance has been made mandatory for establishment of certain categories of polluting industry, construction and infrastructure projects.